

Church Records

Uruguay “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

December 2015

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find parish records from 1791-1880 for a large portion of Uruguay.

INTRODUCTION

One benefit to researching in Uruguay is that the government civil registration office transcribed parish records for the years 1791 to 1880 in order to create civil records. These records cover a large portion of the country and can be very useful in trying to locate ancestors. They are not organized geographically or chronologically. Because they are organized by the date of transcription, rather than by the date the event occurred, you must use indexes.

It is unknown how complete these transcriptions are. This could be one reason why you do not find an individual you think should be in the collection. If possible, check your ancestral families with the original church records to ensure that the families are complete.

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [Latin America Catholic Church Records](#)

HOW TO

The civil transcripts of the church records are available from FamilySearch. To locate these records, complete the following steps:

1. Visit the FamilySearch website, at <https://familysearch.org>. In the top navigation bar, hover over the word “Search”. A dropdown menu will appear, click on “Catalog”.
2. Entries in the FamilySearch catalog are location-based. In the search box under the word “Place”, type in Uruguay and click on the blue “Search” box.
3. You will see a list of topics. Click on the topic **Uruguay – Church records (3)**.
4. You should now see three entries for this topic. Click on the third collection, called **Transcripción de registros parroquiales, ca. 1791-1880**.

The catalog description for this entry now appears. Scroll down the page to the Film Notes section. There are three indexes available. *Índices de bautismos (nacimientos): Letras A-Z* (baptisms), *Índice de matrimonios: Letras A-Z* (marriages), and *Índice de defunciones: Letras A-*

Z (deaths).

Here are a few vocabulary words you should know when reading the catalog description.

Bautismos	Baptisms
Defunciones	Deaths
Falta or faltan	Missing
Filmados fuera de secuencia	Filmed out of sequence
Indice	Index
Libro(s)	Book(s)
Matrimonios	Marriages
Nacimientos	Births

When you find an entry in the index, be sure to copy all the information listed. The index will list the volume number, page, and entry number. You will need these to locate the original record. Below is a typical example of the birth index:

Dia del Nacimiento	NOMBRES	Departamento	Tomo	Foja	Acta	Observaciones
Mae 28	Gloria M. de los Dolores	Monte	6	1	2	Julio 1
Mae 7/11	Gloria Jaime	" "	"	2	3	" 1
Agosto 7/11	Gloria Esperanza	" "	"	3	4	" 1
diciembre 17/16	Luisas Pedro	" "	"	8	9	" 3
Enero 24/11	Luisas Antonio	" "	"	16	17	" 4
diciembre 13/16	Luisas Antonio	" "	"	16	17	" 4

Source: Uruguay, *Transcripción de registros parroquiales*, ca. 1791-1880, FHL Microfilm 2222356.

In the above image you will notice a year written at the top of the page. This year is the transcription year, not the year of the event. The column on the left is usually the date of baptism, marriage, or death, however, it could be date of transcription. Sometimes the year is given, though it may be just the last two digits of the year. Pay close attention to this column in order to notice the difference. The columns then follow in this order:

- *Día del Nacimiento* (date of birth in this instance. It could be *Matrimonio* or *Defunción*)
- *Nombres*, Names (organized by surname, listed first, followed by given name)
- *Departamento*, Department (meaning province; usually abbreviated)
- *Tomo*, Volume number. In the Catalog this corresponds to the *Libro* or book number.
- *Foja*, Page number
- *Acta*, Entry number
- *Observaciones*, Observations (usually the transcription date)

Once you have recorded the information, return to the FamilySearch catalog entry for the

collection and look for the volume number to identify the corresponding FamilySearch microfilm. The information about volume, page, and act number will help to identify the correct entry.

Note: Look at the whole catalog entry. Some items are filmed out of order, and the catalog can be somewhat deceiving. For example, under the entry for the marriage indexes, it states, “Indice de matrimonios: Letras A-Z (falta letra L). This gives the impression that the index for letter L is missing. A few entries further, under “Matrimonios: Libros 55-69A...” you will find that the index for the letter L is included on this microfilm.

PRACTICE

Now, use the FamilySearch Catalog to find the marriage of Ernestina Ferrer. First you need to know what microfilm you would need to find her in the index.

1. Go to the FamilySearch Catalog, found at: www.familysearch.org/catalog/search
2. Conduct a place search for **Uruguay**.
3. Click on **Uruguay – Church Records (3)**.
4. Click on **Transcripción de registros parroquiales, ca. 1791-1880**.
5. Once there, locate the marriage record index by scrolling down to the section containing *Matrimonios* or marriages.

Look closely at all the entries for *Matrimonios*. You will notice that there are two different microfilms indexing the letter F. Ernestina Ferrer could be on either microfilm. The FamilySearch microfilm numbers are 2222535, Items 3-6 and 2222539.

6. Ernestina Ferrer was actually found on both microfilms. Although each index contained slightly different information, both provided the volume, page, and act numbers. According to the indexes, Ernestina’s marriage was found in **Book 16, Page 196, Entry 299**. Which microfilm would you need to consult in order to find the original record?
7. Returning to the FamilySearch catalog entry, a close look through at the entries for the marriages showed that book 16 is on microfilm 2222536.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.